

**Subject:** Update on UWA's COVID-19 Response and Testing  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 11, 2020 at 10:07:06 AM Central Standard Time  
**From:** UWA President  
**To:** All Faculty and Staff, All Students  
**Attachments:** image001.gif, image002.png, image003.png, image004.png, image005.png, image006.png



## Weekly COVID-19 Response Update

Dear UWA Family,

The University experienced another increase in positive cases and quarantines this week. We all understand that regardless of the health and safety precautions that are taken, there will always be a chance to come into contact with COVID-19—whether on campus or away. However, a deeper analysis of the numbers shows that some on our campus are not adhering to these health and safety precautions and have left themselves and others more vulnerable to this disease.

Contact tracing shows that many of those in quarantine are now isolated because they attended large gatherings where social distancing was not maintained. In fact, 10 of the 14 employees in quarantine could have avoided quarantine by maintaining social distancing instead of large group activities away from campus. The same is true for many of the students in quarantine.

You have heard us preach about the importance of wearing a facial covering. This act is very important in reducing the chances of someone acquiring and/or spreading COVID-19. However, the wearing of facial coverings is not failsafe. Just as important, if not more, is staying socially distanced from others. Staying 6 feet or more from others significantly reduces one's chances of acquiring COVID-19 and will likely prevent one from having to quarantine for 14 days, plus additional days as necessary.

We all want our lives to revert back to normal. We miss spending time with our friends and taking part in group activities. However, we are not yet in a position to do so. The numbers this week are further proof that COVID-19 is still present on our campus and in our communities.

- Currently, there are 20 students and 6 employees (roughly 1.58% of the student population and 1.5% of total on-campus population) with reported positive cases of COVID-19. This total includes GuideSafe™ Sentinel Testing for last week (week ending November 6). Last week, 48 sentinel tests were performed (33 students and 15 faculty/staff) with no positive cases of COVID-19. *Thus far, a total of 430*

*Sentinel Tests have been performed with only two positive test results.*

- 45 students and 14 employees of the University are in quarantine (approximately 3.4% of the University community) due to experiencing COVID-19-like symptoms or from potential exposure to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.

Thank you again for all that you have done, and continue to do, to make this a healthy and safe fall semester.

Take care and be safe,



**Ken Tucker, Ph.D.**

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